[5th January 1954

Black Flag demonstration during the visit of the Prime Minister to Madras.

* 298 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Commissioner, Madras City Police, gave permission in writing to the Dravidian Progressive Federation to do Black Flag Demonstration in Mount Road during the recent visit of the Hon. the Prime Minister of India to Madras?

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" No, Sir. No licence or written permission was given as put in the question, but the Commissioner of Police directed different groups to different places with the object of preventing clashes between them."

Sri R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" Sir, may I know whether it is a fact that the Police in Madras gave protection and also made facilities for this demonstration to be conducted from convenient places? "

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I think the hon. Member's comment is rather long. But I can answer it only in substance. There was preparation for presenting welcome and there was preparation for presenting opposition. Government did not think it right or good or expedient to suppress any party. Therefore, Government's duty was to prevent a clash and all that was necessary was done to that end. There was no encouragement. On the other hand, arrangements made showed things in proper proportions."

Sri A. RAMASAMI TEVAR :—" Sir, may I know from the Hon. Chief Minister whether it is a fact that the Dravidian Progressive Federation have become sane and good boys to abide by the decision of the Police Commissioner? "

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, the hon. Member's construction is very liberal. Men obey when they cannot help obeying." (Laughter.)

Sri K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" May, I know, Sir, how many were injured and taken to the hospital as a result of the black flag demonstration? "

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" In spite of those arrangements, the parties were moving away from their respectively allotted places. And as a result of some trouble during that movement, one man was injured and he, instead of going away, was exhibiting his injury to the people and there was apprehension that greater disturbance may be caused. Meanwhile, the Police arrived and kept the peace."